(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing DTH companies and their area of operations; and

(d) the terms and conditions proposed to new applicants for DTH services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following private companies nave appiied for license for DTH Service:—

(i) M/s. ASC Enterprises Ltd.;

(ii) M/s. Space TV Pvt. Ltd.;

(iii) M/s. Sun Direct TV Pvt. Ltd.;

(iv) M/s. Essel Shyam Communication Pvt. Ltd.;

(v) M/s. Noida Software Technology Park (P) Ltd.; and

(vi) Reliance Sky Magic Pvt. Ltd.

(c) Only M/s. ASC Enterprises is presently operating Direct-to-Home (DTH) Service in India.

(d) The original guidelines indicating terms and conditions for operating DTH service in India were issued on 15.3.2001. The Government nas issued an Oder dated 1.6.2005 adding some terms & conditions to the said guidelines. Both the original and added guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (www.mib.nic.in).

Coverage of AIR/DD

†729. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for expanding the coverage of the All India Radio and the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any efforts are being made to make special arrangement for the backward and rural areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) It has been the constant endeavor of the Government to expand the coverage of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) to uncovered and under-served areas, including backward and rural areas.

All AIR/DD terrestrial transmitters cover backward and rural areas within their respective coverage zones. During 10th Five Year Plan period, AIR have commissioned 38 transmitters and 13 transmitter projects are technically ready for commissioning, while DD have set up 145 transmitters so far. Apart from this, 134 radio transmitters and 29 TV transmitter projects in various parts of the country are presently under implementation.

In addition, multi-channel coverage with a bouquet of 33 TV and 12 radio channels has been provided through "DD Direct-Plus"—free-to-air DTH service of Doordarshan, launched in December, 2004 to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered and under-served areas. It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country (except Andaman & Nicobar Islands) with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

Film on Lal Bahadur Shastri

730. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether material for a film on Late Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister, is lying with his ministry;

(b) if so, the plans to use it for making a better film during this year of his birth centenary; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting produced two films, one in the year 1966 and the other in 1967, exclusively on Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, for theatrical release. Apart